

St Mary the Virgin—North Shoebury

MAY 2021

The Fruit of the Spirit
is
Love JOY Peace
Patience
Kindness Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
and Self-control

Galatians 5: verse 22

SATURDAY 1ST MAY- MAY DAY

THURSDAY 13TH MAY-ASCENSION DAY

13TH –23RD MAY-THY KINGDOM COME

SUNDAY 23RD MAY-PENTECOST

SUNDAY 30TH MAY-TRINITY SUNDAY



**The Church garden work
party this month will be
on
Saturday
8TH MAY
from 2-4pm**



HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

**Thank you to David and Francine for their
contributions this month. If you have anything which would be of
interest, please contact the editor, Craig Hunter early in the month,
so that your space can be reserved.**

07932503644; chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk

**Please send any material for the Magazine by the 17th of the
month**

Vicar's Letter for April 2021

“Opening Up?”

The last twelve months or more have been extraordinarily difficult for many of us. Although we have been constrained in our activities by a combination of pure common sense, and government legislation when common sense seemed in short supply, I think it might not be right to say that we were closed.

Lockdown, however we look at it, did keep us safe.

In this period of Easter, the disciples kept hidden away, possibly in the same upper room where they shared their last meal. We read that Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst. His greeting was Shalom. It is more than just a way of saying hello. We might say, “Peace be with you”. It could mean, “I hope all is well with you”.

This greeting, Shalom, is a positive way of both extending and expressing care and consideration to the person you greet.

As we enter into a new phase of life at what we all hope is the tail end of the pandemic, I think it is necessary for us to extend this feeling of care and consideration to all others.

As we come out of our own upper rooms, as the disciples did at Pentecost, will we be filled with the Spirit? Will we speak openly to the crowds in the same way as the disciples?

Our church was never closed, even though many people have tried to tell us it was. We continued to offer care and consideration to others. Each in our own way, we looked out for those who were vulnerable. Sadly, this pandemic will have a long tail. Many have lost jobs, businesses that were strong are now vulnerable, those who had little before now have less.

For this reason, I am going to appeal to us all. Organisation like HARP and Southend Foodbank are in great need of support. Most supermarkets now have a foodbank basket, please support it. We will continue to collect for both HARP and the Foodbank.

Southend Foodbank urgently require long-life puddings, long-life fruit juice, instant mash, jam and mug shots. HARP are also asking for similar items.

This is a selection of their needs. Coffee, Sugar, Breakfast cereals, Baked beans, Cooking Sauces, Tinned Meat (Spam, corned beef, Ham), Tinned veg, Tinned meals (chilli, curry etc), Tinned new potatoes, Hot dogs and meatballs, Fruit squash, Curry and chilli cooking sauces, Tuna.

It would make such a great difference if each one of us brings just one item each week to church that can be donated. It will make a difference to someone.

As we move out of lockdown, our Church Hall will be open for hire, we will once again hold a mid-week service of Holy Communion on Thursday at 10.00 am, there will be a coffee morning on Thursday at about 10.30 am.

The Sunday morning service pattern will change. We will start our Family Service once again on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, the Parish Eucharist will once again be celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month.

I am looking forward to welcoming all those who have been shielding, all those who are still nervous about coming out. For a while we will still be limited in how many members can attend each service, but slowly, these limits can be increased as long as we show care and consideration towards each other.

We were never closed, but now we can meet again and fulfil our purpose.

Shalom

Rev David Pierce

May 2021

Errors from elsewhere

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

-Thank you Francine

May



As we go to press this wonderful mechanism for raising much needed Revenue has contributed **over £675** to our church funds in less than two years at no extra cost to our supporters.

There are several “FREE OFFERS” and I propose to highlight one each month with the invitation to enter the **FREE TRIAL**. I will remind you of the end of the offer in our whatsapp chat so that you might withdraw without cost. I suggest we all try

Which would raise between £20-£120 for FREE this coming month.

Please help again at no cost to yourself— of course it could be that you will be so delighted with the product that you might choose to be a regular subscriber!

An advertisement for Readly. It features the Readly logo (a yellow square icon followed by the word 'Readly' in black) at the top. Below the logo, the text reads '£4 donation' in orange, followed by 'Discover thousands of magazines and get 2 months free' in grey. At the bottom, there is a bright pink rectangular button with the white text 'Get deal'.

Errors from elsewhere

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

-Thank you Francine



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St James the Least

On the perils of holding a Rose Queen celebration

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

On reflection, inviting your parishioners to join in our annual Rose Queen celebrations may not have been entirely wise. It was cheering to see that your people arrived on carnival floats, although it was less happy that some of them should have chosen to dress up as coronavirus bugs, full of those nasty spike proteins – that startled some of the timid residents in our community.

Once the procession started, your drivers did not seem to have grasped the fact that the vehicles were expected to tour the village slowly, for the benefit of spectators, instead of treating it as a competitive race. I noticed that numbers on your floats gradually diminished as they were flung off while careering round corners. Those who had a walk of several miles back home while dressed as pirates and ballerinas had my sympathy. Our tea ladies, however, were less sympathetic when one of your hay bales was spun off on a tight corner and went through our Women's Guild like a row of skittles.

The local police normally use the afternoon to do a little gentle point duty while drinking gallons of sweet tea; this year, the number of tickets issued for speeding, and not social distancing, should boost our constabulary's figures for the next 12 months.

I must concede that the group who decided to make a *papier mache* swan for one of your floats showed great imagination. It was such a pity that they did not know a 15-foot-high swan would be driven under a 12-foot bridge. The drama of its emergence, headless, was only exceeded by the following float which appeared to have a group of Brownies being savaged by a demented, bodiless, vulture.

May

I am sure that some of your people's offers to help this year's Princesses campaign for election for Rose Queen next year were well-meant. However, I don't think our parish really wants a full-blown social media campaign for next year's Rose Queen, and so we will have to decline your offer.

The crowning of the Rose Queen is always a high point to the afternoon, but could I point out that the 'gold' crown is only metal foil, and the 'diamond' sceptre is only a piece of glass? So, whoever it was in your crowd who walked off with them, please may we have them back before next year?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Errors from elsewhere

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

-Thank you Francine



Famine may be on the way

That is the stark warning of the Disasters Emergency Committee coalition of UK aid agencies, who says that the economic devastation caused by the pandemic is leading to increasing hunger in poorer countries.

Thousands are likely to die this year as the knock-on effect of Covid-19 worldwide has left millions less able to afford food. South Sudan and Yemen are already on the brink of famine, and Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of the Congo are also in deep trouble.

Just at a time when Covid-19 and wars have crippled the economic and health systems of many countries, humanitarian funding has dropped as donor countries also struggle.

Saleh Saeed, the committee's chief executive, explained: "People living in places made perilous by conflict, violence and climate disasters are coping as best they can, but the odds are stacked against them. The knock-on effects of the pandemic have crippled economies, making the world's poorest people even poorer."

Errors from elsewhere

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

-Thank you Francine

C of E responds to child sexual abuse report

The Church of England has recently published a detailed response to the recommendations of the IICSA (Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse) report from October 2020.

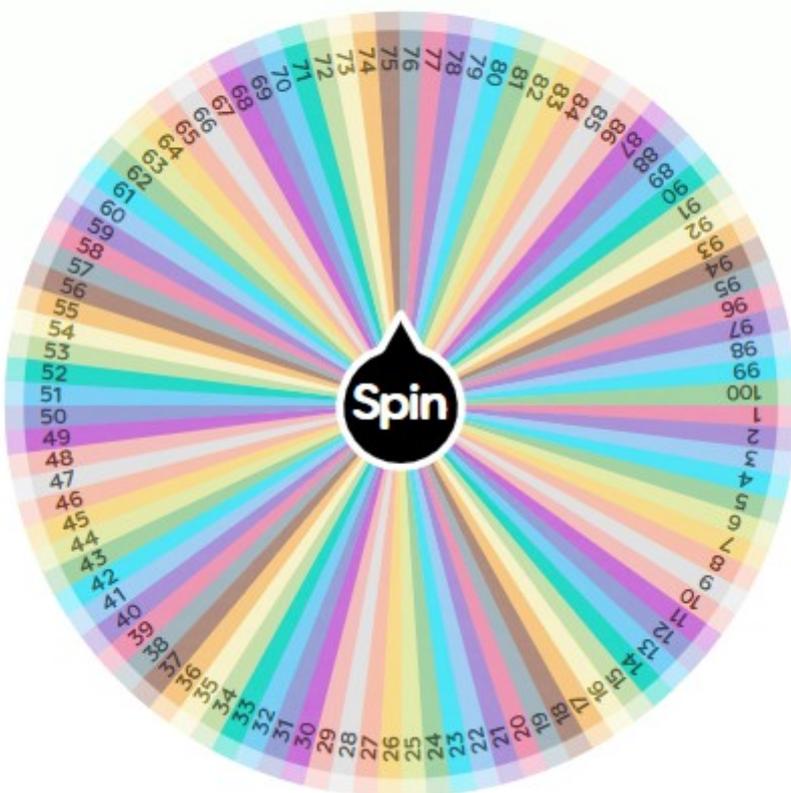
The response includes an admission that “the Church of England failed to protect some children and young people from sexual predators within their midst.”

It goes on: “While the Church will continue to apologise, the main focus is now recognising the distress caused, and acting to improve its safeguarding structures.”

The Church has accepted in full the recommendations made by the Inquiry. “Our response document focuses on response to victims and survivors including redress, structure and independence, information sharing, revision of the Clergy Discipline Measure and external audits.”

The Church has set up an IICSA safeguarding programme, for which the Archbishops’ Council will be responsible.

numbers 1 - 100



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2nd May - Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop,

Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.



Opening up !

As you may have already heard through David's weekly newsletter we are working towards the "new normal" and beginning to resume activities and operations that were pre-lockdown. If you are in doubt or unsure of arrangements please contact us and ask. Certainly after "zoom" everyone is looking forward to at least being in the same "distanced" space!

The End of Virtual Coffee Morning?

We are also preparing to start Thursday Coffee Morning in the Church Hall at about 10.30 am. It will still be possible to join using Zoom, but it will be different.

To begin with there will be table service, and cakes will be individually wrapped. We do need to continue to care for each other, but it will be so good to meet again in person. We hope that all those who attended before we had to close down will feel able to return, and bring friends with them.

Mid-week Holy Communion

We think it is possible to restart Thursday Holy Communion. This service will start again on Thursday 20th May **at 10.00 am**. I hope to be able to welcome back all those who took part before the pandemic.

If your circumstances have changed and you would like to attend, please do come along. Numbers at this service are not normally large.

Errors from elsewhere

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet

Thursday at 7pm.

Please use the back door.

-Thank you Francine

CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries, including weddings, baptisms, blessings etc. please, in the first instance, contact Pat Fitch.

01702 585289

Phone numbers are all area code 01702 unless stated

Lead Minister	Revd. David Pierce	07305 710265 david@revdavidpierce.net
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Hall Bookings	Phyl Wickenden	582185
	Francine Johnson	589244
PCC Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
Church Finance & Gift Aid Secretary	Francine Johnson	589244
Electoral Roll	Sue Arnold	586453
Church Diaries & Flowers co-ordinator	Wendy Shipperley	588319
Social, Hall & Fundraising	Francine Johnson	589244
	Phyl Wickenden	582185
Readers, Chalice Assistants & Sides persons Rota	Church Warden	
Parish Magazine	Craig Hunter	07932 503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Churchyard Safeguarding Officer	(Vacancy) Pat Fitch	585289

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www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk



Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement's plans for 2021

Thy Kingdom Come, the ecumenical prayer movement for evangelisation, uniting Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide from the Ascension to Pentecost, will be run differently this year, from the 13th-23rd May.

Thy Kingdom Come - which is led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and has attracted the support of His Holiness Pope Francis in recent years - will offer a selection of new resources and ways in which worshipping communities can participate - despite ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

New resources for 2021 will include an 11-part family-friendly animation series; video reflections from influential Christian voices such as Bear Grylls, Bishop of Dover Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Archbishop Angaelos, and this year's Prayer Journal, penned by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

A special video message from Archbishop Justin Welby, who will be on study leave during this year's 11-day prayer period, will also be shown.

While prayer for evangelisation remains at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come, this year the resources are designed to encourage worshipping communities, families and individuals who may have struggled with the idea of Church at Home.

For families, there is an 11-part children's video series called Cheeky Pandas – packed with Bible stories, prayers, animation, worship songs and interviews with special guests including Adventurer, Bear Grylls, CBeebies Presenter Gemma Hunt, Revd Nicky Gumbel

Errors from elsewhere

The Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:

'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

-Thank you Francine



(HTB and Alpha) and Pastor Agu and Shola (Jesus House) to name a few. The video series (which will be available from early April onwards) can be used as part of church at home, gathered church (online and offline) and in school assemblies. Similar to last year, the series will be the main content in the Family Prayer Adventure Map and App.

For Youth, Thy Kingdom Come are working with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust to produce a selection of youth resources including a series of video reflections from young influential Christians such as the current Methodist Youth President - Phoebe Parkin, rapper and author - Guvna B, Worship Leader- Elle Limebear, Spoken Word Artist - Joshua Luke Smith and many more.

Other new resources include the Prayer Journal, written by the Archbishop of York, - aimed at inspiring readers to re-encounter the love and joy found in Jesus Christ and this year's Novena.

The award-winning Thy Kingdom Come app, available in nine languages, will for the first time, include audio content from 24-7 Prayer's Lectio 365 with audio reflections from Pete Greig, Archbishop Justin and 24-7 Prayer GB UK Director, Carla Harding.

This year Thy Kingdom Come is also giving away 100,000 copies of the Prayer Journal and Family Prayer Adventure Map to UK churches, as long as P&P is covered.

Emma Buchan, Thy Kingdom Come Project Director, said: "We really want TKC to inspire people in their relationships with Christ, and to resource children and young people in fun, spiritually nourishing ways.

"We hope and pray Pentecost is a time of great joy after what has been such a challenging season."

Errors from elsewhere

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

-Thank you Francine

The Ven John Barton considers the arrival of the people from Hong Kong.

Foreigners?

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to English parish churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean.

Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them.

In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing. This is how he summarised it:

"I now realise it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to." (Acts 10.34)

Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate all of them and then look for others to welcome.

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Josephine Butler, social reformer for women

Josephine Butler is the 'saint' for anyone who believes in social justice. This remarkable 19th century clergyman's wife became a renowned campaigner for women's rights and for putting a halt to human trafficking.

Josephine was born in Northumberland in 1828, the daughter of a wealthy family of liberal politics and committed Christian faith. They had already been deeply involved in the abolition of slavery and the extension of the franchise. Such notions of equality instilled into Josephine a passionate desire to combat social injustice.

In 1852 Josephine married George Butler, the son of the Headmaster of Harrow, who shared her views. George was ordained in 1854 and they moved first to Oxford and then to Cheltenham. In 1863 tragedy struck when their daughter Eva fell to her death.

Josephine's grief found expression a few years later, when in 1865 George had become Headmaster of Liverpool College, and the couple were settling in Liverpool. Josephine was horrified at the lives of destitute women in Liverpool, and so she founded a 'home' to care for them, as well as a hostel to train them for suitable work. In 1869 she agreed to head a campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act of 1866, and by 1871 she had addressed a Royal Commission, explaining how this Act brutalised these women, already trapped in the slavery of prostitution. She got the Act rescinded.

By 1882, when George had become a Residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Josephine had not only founded a refuge for recovering prostitutes in Winchester, but she had also begun to fight sex trafficking across the world. This included freeing British girls from Belgian brothels. By 1885 Josephine had exposed the white slave trade in London, and had got Parliament to increase the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16, and to penalise those engaged in the transport of women for profit.

In 1890 George died, but Josephine continued her work until retirement to Northumberland, where she died in 1906.

All in all, Josephine Butler's deep Christian compassion transformed the lives of many tens of thousands of suffering women. She has been described as one of the most important early members of the feminist movement.



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